

months of pregnancy. Women need to have education, whether it is sex education, whether it is birth control, or whether it is medical support that puts this risk out of consideration by making some other alternative available. They need that kind of education. A commission could do the kind of work necessary to consider those options. Delays, such as a mandatory 24 waiting period only increase risks to human...or women's health. Although the 24 hours, itself, may not create substantial risks, the burden it creates may lead to extensive delays. That is supported by some of the opinions that were expressed before the Judiciary Committee. If you were a student of the hearing, you might have noticed the testimony of Lynn Marcus. She was saying that proponents claim that a mandatory delay allows women time to fully consider their decision to terminate a pregnancy. These requirements imply that women's decision processes are faulty, Ms. Marcus said, that their decisions are made hastily and are based on ignorance and simplistic thought. To the contrary, a woman gives careful thought to an abortion process or decision which is made within the context of her own personal, moral, philosophical, and religious beliefs. She will, if she chooses, discuss her situation with a spouse or partner, friends, family, clergy, or other counselors. Additional counseling is provided at clinics as part of the services that are offered. A waiting definition by...a waiting period by definition delays an abortion, and delays in abortion create health risks. The mandatory delay does not take into account the inherent delays in these situations.

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: The realities are when a woman's period is late, she will begin to consider what a pregnancy means to her at that point in her life. She will need to verify pregnancy either at home or medically with her physician. Upon final confirmation, she will consider to...she will begin to consider her options. If she chooses abortion, which is a legal option and the law of the land, she must find information on abortion services, and make contact with a clinic. Appointments must be secured and oftentimes two to seven days elapse during which the individual continues to evaluate her decision. This is not an impulsive decision. Mandatory waiting periods not only cast disparagement on women's decision-making abilities, they set up obstacles that only add hardship to an already difficult situation. In the case of pregnancy as the result of rape or other violent and abusive situations, the hardships and